



Sonder Midwest



# Plastic Existence

## *Feixue Mei*

I am tagged  
 I am labeled  
 I am represented  
 I am constructed  
 I am manipulated  
 I am multiplied  
 I am transferred  
 I am categorized

I am modeled  
 I am distorted  
 I am appropriated  
 I am re-contextualized  
 I am repurposed  
 I am soft  
 I am plastic  
 I am mutable  
 I am malleable  
 I am reconfiguration  
 I have multi-platform identity

I am trans dimensional  
 I am trans medial  
 I travel cross-platform  
 I travel cross-culture  
 I am unstable  
 I am disordered  
 I am defined  
 I am immature  
 I am undeveloped  
 I am developing  
 I am growing  
 I am incomplete  
 I am going multiple directions  
 I am adaptable

I am marginalized  
 I am digested  
 I am aggressive  
 I am dependent  
 I am unthinking  
 I am fickle

I am impressionable  
 I am a metaphor

I am a prototype of myself  
 I am placed in different stories  
 I am free  
 I am a simulation  
 I am a simulacrum  
 I am altered  
 I am a serial creature  
 I am a hybrid creature  
 I am an impossible creature  
 I am an elastic line in evolution  
 I am an eternally changeable dancing flame

I don't belong to a group  
 I slip in everywhere  
 I am a figure of becoming  
 I meet the needs of "liquid modernity"  
 I reject once-and-forever allotted form  
 I am shrinking  
 I am expanding  
 I am splitting  
 I am dissolving  
 I am accumulating  
 I am in process  
 I am unfinished  
 I am process-oriented  
 I am always changing  
 I am both temporary and enduring

I am Utopia  
 I am Dystopia  
 I am another universe  
 I collapse and recover  
 I am mobile  
 I am flexible  
 I am stereotyped

I am out of place  
 I am displaced  
 I am outside of myself



Mei

I embody technological innovation and social change

I am gendered  
I am neutral  
I am close  
I am far away  
I am interior  
I am exterior  
I am general  
I am specific

I am a database  
I am manageable  
I acted like a child  
I am commodified  
I am branded  
I am packaged  
I have a robotic heart  
I adopt childish personas  
I satisfied their desires  
I am prosaic  
I am poetic  
I am ashes  
I am stardust

I am straight forward  
I am dancing around  
I am a creature  
I am signals  
I am codes  
I am graphics  
I am numbers  
I am inside  
I am outside  
I am you  
You are me

I am produced  
I am consumed  
I am shared  
I am hidden  
I am the unseen  
I am transgressive  
I am vulnerable  
I am desire  
I want to participate  
I want friends

I am a producer  
I am a consumer

I am hyperreal fantasy  
I am destroyed  
I am deconstructed  
I am disconnected  
I am alienated  
I am all over the place  
I am disoriented

I am a mirror  
I am a reflection  
I am a ghost  
I am invisible  
I am here  
I am there  
I am everywhere  
I am all over the place  
I am coexisted

I am your eye  
I am your nose  
I am your mouth  
I am your mind  
I am your brain  
I am engaged  
I am noticed  
I am ignored  
I am eliminated

I am an icon  
I am visual  
I am sound  
I am motion  
I am a color  
I am a symbol  
I am text  
I am an image  
I am images

You put words in my mouth  
I am shouting  
I am whispering  
I am structure  
I am content  
I am a word  
I am a sentence



I am a paragraph  
 I am a narrative  
 I am nonsenses  
 I am meaningless  
 I am nothing  
 I don't make any sense  
 I am confusing  
 I am texture  
 I am a line  
 I am a dot  
 I am a shape  
 I am components  
 I am destroyed  
 I destroyed myself  
 I separate from daily lives

I am liquid  
 I am fluid  
 I am confusion  
 I am distraction  
 I am an illusion  
 I am sensitive  
 I am protected  
 I am mixed  
 I am not part of it  
 I am not contained  
 I am isolated  
 I am asymmetrical  
 I take it over  
 I occupy the space  
 I am shaking  
 I am scared  
 I am oppressive  
 I am evolution  
 I am degradation  
 I have a distinct sociological value  
 I am the transformation of stable forms into  
 forms of mobility  
 I magnetized the viewer with "the variability  
 of its living forms"

I am stretched  
 I am extended  
 I am broken  
 I am vulnerable  
 I am desire

I am a reflection  
 I am visualized  
 I am objectified  
 I am projected  
 I am created  
 I am able to fold myself  
 I am self-expression  
 I want to escape from reality  
 I am fantasy  
 I deliberately separated from bonds of  
 everyday reality

I am fixed  
 I am unfixed  
 I appear  
 I disappear  
 I am out of control  
 I grow out of left behind  
 I live on the margin of culture  
 My face changing over time  
 I am an on-going process  
 I am accelerating  
 I am an empty territory  
 The process of me is transformation of  
 object into object of desire

My identities are staged through the com-  
 puter graphic technology of the morph  
 The mainstay of digital animation  
 and cinematic special effects  
 I am performing  
 I am falling  
 I am shrinking  
 I am enlarging  
 I am narrowing  
 I am tumbling down to the rabbit hole  
 I am a dotted line  
 I am voiced by different people  
 I appear in 3-D and 2-D  
 As a still image  
 As a moving animation  
 I am a graphic line drawing on video, paper,  
 and in neon light  
  
 I existed

# Biographies

**Kapono Asunción** is from Rochester, Minnesota, but also calls Hawaii home. Now pursuing a Master's in Inequalities and Social Science at the London School of Economics, their art is an effort to survive, to practice self-love and resistance, and to build community as a brown, queer, nonbinary person.

**Simone Barenfeld** is a feminist, educator, and aspiring spiritual leader. She holds a B.A. in journalism and English from Baruch College, CUNY, and an M.Ed. from the University of Massachusetts, Boston. She has been published in *The Jewish Advocate*, *The Ticker*, and *CAMERA*.

**Estelle Birdy** is a writer, yoga teacher and mother of four, living in Dublin, Ireland. A recent graduate of the MA in Creative Writing Programme at UCD, her work appears in the 'Heartland' and Verve Poetry Festival anthologies and has been shortlisted for the Penfro Literary Festival and Dalkey Creates Competitions.

**Asantewaa Boykin** is a San Diego, CA native, Emergency RN, daughter of Valerie Boykin and granddaughter of Bertha Brandy. Her poetry combines her love of words, storytelling, and resistance. Exploring topics like; space-travel, black-femme militancy,& motherhood. Asantewaa co-founded APTP an organization committed to the eradication of police terror in all of its forms.

**Sam Crohn** is a painter based in the Hudson valley who's surreal work focuses on ambiguous social interaction between androgynous figures. She obtained her BFA in painting and drawing from Purchase college in 2018 and is now looking to pursue a graduate degree in the near future.

**Kimberly Vernnon Diggs** is new to this and its mind altering! She thanks God for the gifts, her family and friends that always support her! She definitely wouldn't be the poet she was if she hadn't had Professor Karla believe in her when she didn't believe in herself. ! We gave Birth to this got damn Nation!

**Lilyanne Kane** is a non-binary lesbian poet and educator based in San Francisco. Their work explores gender, family, trauma, and healing. They hold an MFA from the Mississippi University for Women, and their poetry most recently appears in *Mojave He[Art] Review*, and *Sonder Midwest*. You can find them on Twitter @PluralFloral.

**Feixue Mei** was born and raised in Wuhan, China. She received a BFA degree from Colorado State University with a graphic design concentration and from Central China Normal University with a visual communication concentration. Currently, she is pursuing an MFA in Design/Visual Communications at Virginia Commonwealth University.

**Kailah Peters** is an emerging African American writer who studies creative writing at DePaul University. She writes with Poems While You Wait, a team of poets and their typewriters who compose commissioned poetry on demand around Chicago, and publishes blog posts on Medium.

**Rae Rozman** is a middle school counselor in Austin, Texas. Her poetry frequently explore themes of queer love (romantic and platonic), brain injury, and education. You can find her writing poems, nerding out about books, and sharing pictures of her rescue bunnies on Instagram [@mistress\\_of\\_mnemosyne](#).

**Lauren Senter** calls Michigan home. She loves Jesus, board games, concerts, and everything about fall. When not working 9-5 at a corporate grocery retailer/distributor, she enjoys photography, writing, checking out new restaurants, and time with her friends and family. Cheers!

**Therese Tully's** poems have been featured in Clarion and The Laughing Medusa. Her short fiction was a finalist in Paper Darts' Flash Fiction Competition in 2016. Tully's body of work focuses largely on introspection and everyday life. She received her BA in English from Boston College in 2014. She currently works in Boston, Massachusetts.

**Milly Webster** is a 21-year-old poet and creative writing student at the University of Lincoln, UK. Currently, she is working on her dissertation which is a collection of poetry exploring themes of bisexuality and bi-erasure. She enjoys exploring these themes through her work as they often allow layers of understanding.

A collage artwork with a textured, watercolor-like background. On the left, a man in a dark suit and tie is shown in profile, looking down. To his right, there's a vertical strip of images showing a crowd of people, some with their hands raised. At the bottom, there are large, overlapping pink and red abstract shapes that resemble petals or soft-edged circles. The overall composition is layered and expressive.

**Featuring:**

Kapono Asunción

Simone Barenfeld

Estelle Birdy

Andrea Borsuk

Asantewaa Boykin

Sam Crohn

Kimberly Vernon

Diggs

Lilyanne Kane

Feixue Mei

Kailah Peters

Rae Rozman

Lauren Senter

Therese Tully

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